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Balitang Beterano

Col. F. Quesada, USA (Ret.)

Veterans support full equity benefits bill by Filner, Inouye

In the wake of the current mass effort of Filipino-Americans World War II crusade for full equity payment by the United States of the over 50 years old retarded obligation, Sen. D. Inouye (D-HI) and Rep. B. Filner (D-CA) and a string concerned solons have full support for these indentured war veterans who are dying of advance age and disease.

While the Republican dominated Congress merely show puny regard for these indentured veterans as victims of racial and economic discrimination, no less perpetuated by Congress itself, there are still level-headed solons with negative actuation in Congress and a ruinous act in the "parliament of whores."

Presently, Republicans merely pass laws that are bad laws which racially and economically discriminate and divides Filipino-American WW-II veterans. These notorious laws are merely a drop in the bucket out of the total \$3.2 billion dollar huge obligation of the United States to the Fil-Am WW-II veterans who were members of the U.S. Armed Forces that were sent to Harm's Way.

The original 200,000 Filipino U.S. nationals conscripted by Pres. F. Roosevelt in 1941 to fight for the U.S. flag and its imperial interests in the Philippines - there are now only 29,400 of them surviving and are dying at the rate of 10 a day from disease, old age and want of U.S. genuine relief for them who had been mistreated in a cruel hoax.

Now, over 50 years of neglect and merely given puny

assistance but not their war-time-earned benefits - the rest of them (170,600) died with hate in their hearts from having been deceived and swindled. This marked the darkest day and hour of America's cruelty to those who shed blood and died for this country.

Actually, the money being hoarded and held hostage by Congress for their pork belongs to the Fil-Am veterans. They are amassed dollars illegally withheld from veterans.

Year after year, veterans have appealed for justice and fairness from the U.S. government to no avail. It simply fell to deaf ears, callous and avid hearts.

In the 58th year anniversary of the notorious passage of the First Supplemental Appropriation Rescission Act of 1946 that took away all war-time compensation and benefits of Filipino U.S. nationals - these diminishing number of veterans has been assisted by their angry sons and daughters who do not want to accept the cruel hoax heaped by some powerful pygmies in Congress upon their hapless parents.

Albeit, stout-heated solons in Congress have banded together to fight an uphill battle to defeat the legislative crime against humanity. Fair-headed citizen taxpayers have seen the dirty trick played by powerful solons against the Fil-Am WW-II veterans under what was a piece-meal dispensation of health care benefits liken to crumbs thrown from the master's table to the veterans wallowing in poverty (*liken to dogs*) just to keep them quiet.

Sad to see also were a few perfidious Filipino (Makapilis)

quislings espousing retarded puny benefits as a drop in the bucket for these veterans not knowing what to do next who are living in ghettos among homeless veterans.

These Fil-Am war veterans had been trashed like garbage - compared to their comrades in the U.S. Armed Forces who have a white face, so to speak

Finally, Rep. R. Cunningham (R-CA) out of goodness in his heart filed a bill in the House of Representatives - House Resolution HR-677 seeking full equity settlement and cloture of all unpaid compensation and benefits of Fil-Am WW-II veterans. It was co-sponsored by Rep. B. Filner (D-CA).

In California Democrat Reps: R. Matsui, N. Pelosi, B. Lee, T. Lantos, F. Stark, M. Honda, Z. Lofgren, S. Farr, X. Becerra, L. Allard, J. Harman, J. McDonald, L. Sanches, and S. Davis.

Among them were only 3 Republicans namely: E. Royce, D. Rorbacker and D. Issa.

In Northern California the following Democrat representatives have not yet signed up: M. Thompson, L. Woolsey, G. Miller, E. Tauscher, A. Eshoo, D. Cardoza, C. Dooley,

The Republican representatives who have not signed up are: W. Herger, D. Ose, J. Doolittle, R. Palombo, G. Radanovich, D. Nunes,

In Southern California, Democrat representatives who have not signed up are: L. Capps, D. Dreier, B. Sherman, H. Berman, H. Waxman, H. Solis, d. Watson, M. Waters, G. Napolitano, J. Baca.

Republican representatives who have not signed up are W. Thomas, E. Gallego, H. Mckee, D. Drierer, J. Lewis, G. Miller, K. Calert, M. Bono, C. Cox and D. Hunter.

For the veterans, Rep. Filner has to work harder to secure as many sponsors and supporters from the Republican camp to afford a greater bi-partisan participation to pass HR-677 in the House.

In the same token, Sen Inouye said he would be willing to junk his former bill S-68 and file a similar bill to HR-677 in the Senate, if he positively see that Pres. Bush actually is pushing HR-677 in his Republican Congress.